



Bagenstose, Kyle <kbagenstose@couriertimes.com>

Burlington County Times - Thanks and a shorter additional request

City of Bordentown <[REDACTED]>
To: "Bagenstose, Kyle" <kbagenstose@couriertimes.com>

Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 8:23 AM

Good Morning Kyle,

Commissioner Myers has asked that I forward the following response to your questions.

First, I wanted to reiterate the importance of the health and safety of the citizens we serve. The city water department is committed to a comprehensive data-driven approach to examine the issue thoroughly. Simultaneously, we are committed to an open and transparent communication process and we will continue to provide updates through our website, mailings, social media, and public forums.

As part of the city's corrective action plan, the city continues to collect more data. Furthermore, as previously reported on the data from our water source (which revealed the water source to be fine – or technically speaking significantly below the action level, with numerous results below the detectable limit), the city will be moving onto the next phase. This next phase includes digging up the public roadway in front of homes that experienced an exceedance of lead in its water. The purpose of these efforts will be to investigate the service lines from the water main to the curb box.

Grace I. Archer, RMC, CMR

Municipal Clerk/Registrar

City of Bordentown

324 Farnsworth Avenue

Bordentown, NJ 08505

Ph: [REDACTED]

Fx: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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From: Bagenstose, Kyle <kbagenstose@couriertimes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:37 AM
To: Grace Archer <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]; Joe Myers <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Burlington County Times - Thanks and a shorter additional request

Ms. Archer,

Thanks for the response. We will be happy to file an OPRA request for any documents related to the Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment Study, which I will do this morning in a separate email.

However, respectfully, my initial email was not limited to a request for a document. Included were two general questions not related to a specific document: what kind of analysis was performed, and does the city have any intentions of commissioning a laboratory (aka demonstration) study. Our understanding from communication with NJDEP and document review was that such a study has not been performed because NJDEP did not require it, but we wanted to give the city an opportunity to comment on these specific activities. We will not be delaying our editorial schedule, but if the city can provide responses specific to these questions (likely meaning by today or early tomorrow) we will include them in our upcoming story.

Thank you.

-Kyle

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 5:08 PM City of Bordentown <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Afternoon Kyle,

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner, it was a busy day. The City has continued to be open and communicative with you during this entire lead testing and reporting period (2017 and 2018) and will continue to provide information to you that is pertinent to your requests.

As we continue this cooperative effort to examine the lead testing issues, I would ask that you submit an OPRA request, as you have done previously, to obtain copies of any reports or studies you believe would benefit the reporting of accurate information on the City's efforts to explore and determine why levels of lead exceedances are being experienced by some homeowners in our service area. Our City Solicitor is reviewing documents that may be responsive to your first question to determine if there is sensitive or privileged information that should not be made readily available to the public under OPRA.

As you are aware, the City continues to work closely with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and continues its efforts to provide educational materials, free water testing, and is conducting exploratory digs on those homes experiencing exceedances to determine whether there are lead service lines at their homes or the problem lies within internal plumbing.

Thank you for your cooperation with the City officials in dealing with this issue.

Grace I. Archer, RMC, CMR

Municipal Clerk/Registrar

City of Bordentown

324 Farnsworth Avenue

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From: Bagenstose, Kyle <kbagenstose@couriertimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 12:57 PM

To: Grace Archer <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Burlington County Times - Thanks and a shorter additional request

Ms. Archer and Ms. McElmoyl,

Thank you for your providing the responses to my questions yesterday. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, our story will run Sunday.

In the course of reporting the story, there was some question raised about what kind of treatment studies the city has conducted to date. My understanding is the city conducted some level of a corrosion control treatment study in the spring or summer to arrive at the recommendation of the use of orthophosphates and continued pH adjustment for corrosion control. However, it is my understanding the city has not yet engaged in more detailed studies, often referred to as "laboratory" or "lab" studies, which could involve examining pipes or recreating environmental conditions in a controlled setting.

We are planning a second report for next week. I appreciate the time you've taken to prepare the prior answers and feel this is a much shorter and more specific request, hoping you can meet a deadline of 2 p.m. next Tuesday, 12/11. Again, if you feel you'd need additional time please let me know as soon as possible. Thanks. -Kyle

1. What kind of analysis was performed for the city's corrosion control treatment study leading to the recommendation of orthophosphates, and can you provide a copy of the study?
2. Does the city have any intention of commissioning a detailed, "laboratory study" as part of the effort to determine the cause and potential solutions to high lead levels in some area homes?

--

Kyle Bagenstose

Investigative reporter, government & environment

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